

August 18, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the U.S. Department Justice has approved a \$157,000 grant to the City of Rome to reduce crime in target neighborhoods and promote neighborhood revitalization.

"As a former Oneida County District Attorney, I know first-hand how critical community building programs like Weed and Seed are to reducing crime and fostering development in our cities' most vulnerable areas," **said Arcuri**. "The Weed and Seed program helps localities develop programs to weed out and deter crime and then take the all-important step - often left out - of planting seeds in the formerly high-crime areas with programs to promote neighborhood revitalization."

"As Steering Committee Chair, and Law Enforcement co-chair of the Rome Weed and Seed program, I am very pleased that we have received the final installment of what is close to one million dollars in funding that was awarded almost five years ago," **said Rome Public Safety Commissioner, James Masucci**

. "I thank Congressman Michael Arcuri for his unending support of this federal program that means so much to the citizens of this City, as well as the Rome Police Department. This grant has enabled the City of Rome to maintain the status as one of the safest communities in the country."

The Rome Weed and Seed site received Official Recognition in June 2006. This represents the site's fifth and final award totaling \$824,000 in funding to implement its strategy. During this project period law enforcement will identify and reduce drug incidents and drug-related crimes and reduce the number of violent crimes committed in the designated area. Community policing goals are to improve community relations by providing the knowledge and ability to make positive community changes and to implement policies and procedures for developing and maintaining groups. Prevention, intervention, and treatment goals include the creation of a safe haven providing a variety of programs and services focusing on drug abuse, prevention, and other behavioral problems. Neighborhood restoration goals will restore the community by increasing homeownership and employment opportunities.

The site has allocated \$89,500 of the total \$157,000 award to support weeding activities, including community policing.

Each Weed and Seed site is required to demonstrate its local coordination efforts in its application for Official Recognition and include a firm commitment of either time or resources to the project in a specific Memorandum of Understanding.

###